(a) whether it is a fact that one civilian company is transporting coal from Gevra CHP to Gevra Railway Siding (Surface to Surfact) @ Rs. 25.48 per tonne;

(b) if so, whether the normative price for the above transport work is Rs. 45.05 per tonne and SECL is paying transportation charges to Ex-servicemen Companies complaints on the basis of the same normative prive from face to surface; and

(c) if so, the reasons for SECL paying so high transportation charges to the Ex-servicemen Companies and the quantity of loss which is being incurred every year by SECL as per above difference in transportation rates?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Normative rate for transportation of coal by Ex-servicemen companies from surface to surface and from face to surface for lead of 9-10 kms is Rs. 43.65 per tonne and Rs. 46.89 per tonne respectively. However, no Ex-servicemen Company has been deployed for a lead of 9-10 kms. in either of the modes in Gevra area.

(c) Does not arise in view of reply to part (b) above.

Prevention of cyber crimes

2581. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are increasing incidents of cyber crimes in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to prevent the recurrence of such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) With the greater use of computers, a general increase in cases of cyber crimes has been noticed worldwide. In India also a similar trend has been observed.

(b) As per the data maintained by National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), the incidence of cyber crimes registered in States/UT under the

Information Technology Act, 2000 and Indian Penal Code (IPC) sections, during the years 2003, 2004 and 2005 are 471, 347 and 481 cases respectively. The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) had registered 5 cases in the year 2005 and 3 cases in 2006 and 4 cases upto 31st March, 2007 thereby showing a mixed trend.

(c) The Information Technology Act, 2000 together with the Indian Penal Code provides legal framework for countering cyber crimes.

The Government has introduced Information Technology (Amendment) Bill, 2006 in the Parliament which *inter alia* provides for:

New forms of crimes, like publishing of material containing sexually explicit act in electronic form, video voyeurism, breach of confidentiality and leakage of data by service providers, e-commerce frauds through impersonation commonly known as phishing, identity theft and offensive messages through communication service.

The Government has also conducted several awareness and training programmes on cyber laws and cyber crimes for Judicial Officers and Law Enforcement Agencies.

An existing investigation cell in CBI undertakes investigation of Cyber Crime cases apart from the Units set up by various State Police. CBI also acts as a nodal agency to train the State Police personnel who are dealing with the investigation of cyber crimes.

Allocation of extra services to post offices

†2582. SHRI VEER PAL SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that apart from distribution of mail, some extra services have also been allocated to post offices for public convenience under the Indian Postal Service;

(b) if so, whether the number of employees in the post offices has also been increased for these extra works; and

(c) if not, the steps Government propose to take in this regard?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.